



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

March 23, 2006

For immediate release

1. **EPC approves 18 contracts to help improve Iowa's water quality**
2. **Feedlot producers invited to northwest Iowa open house March 30**

## **EPC APPROVES 18 CONTRACTS TO HELP IMPROVE IOWA'S WATER QUALITY**

*Projects will help reduce nonpoint source pollution*

DES MOINES — The Environmental Protection Commission on Monday approved 18 contracts – totaling more than \$3 million – for projects that will address water quality problems across the state.

The 18 projects will help reduce the effects of nonpoint source pollution in Iowa's water. Nonpoint source pollution occurs when rainfall or snowmelt washes pollutants from agricultural or urban areas into lakes, rivers and groundwater. Those pollutants include sediment, nutrients and bacteria.

“Local projects like these are so important in improving Iowa's water quality,” said Allen Bonini, head of the DNR's watershed improvement program. “We hope that these projects will lead to improvements that will help us remove some streams and lakes from Iowa's impaired waters list in the future.”

The total amount of the contracts is \$3,134,400. The DNR will fund projects with grant funding made available through the Section 319 program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many of the projects will also use funding from other state and federal programs.

Projects are listed below by region. A full listing of the approved projects, including short descriptions of the projects' goals, is available on the DNR Web site at

[www.iowadnr.com/epc/06mar/7.pdf](http://www.iowadnr.com/epc/06mar/7.pdf).

**Northeast Iowa**

- South Fork Maquoketa River Water Quality Project, Buchanan County, \$150,000
- Bear Creek Watershed Project, Delaware County, \$300,000
- Mineral Creek Water Quality Project, Jones County, \$77,000
- Assessing, Targeting and Tracking of Impaired Watersheds in Northeast Iowa, Winneshiek, Allamakee and Howard Counties, \$127,200

**North Central Iowa**

- Big Wall Lake Restoration Project, Wright County, \$186,050
- Burr Oak/Turtle Creek Water Protection Project, Mitchell County, \$150,000
- Clear Lake Enhancement and Restoration Project, Hancock and Cerro Gordo Counties, \$100,000

**Northwest Iowa**

- Clean Water – Lyon County Demo, Lyon County, \$204,500
- Assessment and Management Plan for the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed, \$260,000

**Southeast Iowa**

- Deer Creek and North Branch Sub-sheds of Clear Creek, Iowa and Johnson Counties, \$250,000
- Lake Darling Water Quality Improvement Plan, Washington County, \$100,000
- Scott Community College Bioswale and Green Roof Learning Experience, \$25,000

**South Central Iowa**

- Water Quality in Rathbun Lake: BMPS for Targeted Sub-Watersheds 2005, Wayne, Lucas, and Decatur Counties, \$250,000
- Addressing Siltation and Nutrient Water Quality Problems in Badger Creek Lake Watershed, Madison County, \$300,000
- Camp Creek Watershed Project, Polk County, \$100,000
- Rock Creek Lake Watershed Improvement Project, Jasper County, \$90,900

**Southwest Iowa**

- Hitchcock Nature Center – Sustainable Design Demonstration, Pottawattamie County, \$63,750

**Other**

- Memorandum of Agreement for Staffing Assistance, \$300,000

**For more information, contact Ubbo Agena at (515) 281-6402.**

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**Note to Editors: This is a joint news release from the Iowa Beef Center, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.**

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## **FEEDLOT PRODUCERS INVITED TO OPEN HOUSE MARCH 30**

SHELDON – Cattlemen, other open feedlot producers and related industry staff in Northwest Iowa are invited to an open house to address water quality issues on March 30.

The meeting will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the City Hall, 416 Ninth St. in Sheldon.

"This meeting is designed to bring together all the resources that can help producers evaluate their current feedlot operation and identify ways to improve their lots," said John Lawrence, director of the Iowa Beef Center, Iowa State University.

Producers can get answers to their questions on everything from planning an open feedlot to funding improvements.

"We want to build off the success of a similar meeting which more than 150 people attended in Carroll County," said Ken Hessenius, supervisor of the Spencer DNR field office.

Producers are encouraged to attend a short opening session and registration, then rotate through any of eight different stations designed to answer their questions about stewardship, management and technical issues.

"I would just encourage producers to take the initiative to get things done properly at their feedlot and this is the place to get the needed information and learn who to contact with questions," said Evan Vermeer, vice president of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. "It's also a chance to pick up ideas from other producers on successful lot designs and maintenance."

Topics include site planning, technical advice and resources, feedlot design, operation and maintenance, funding and financing sources, producer success stories, expectations, the economic benefit of manure and monitoring results/data.

Lawrence added that there is a lot of interest in expanding feedlots and in improving feedlot design to improve cattle performance and environmental protection.

The Open House is co-sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Beef Center, Iowa State University Extension, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

More information on the topics is available on the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)